

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOGADI 01591 150511Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 PM-03 SP-02
IO-06 PA-02 L-01 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 DODE-00
NEA-07 H-01 EB-04 /069 W
-----036667 150522Z /14

P R 141115Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6604
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1591

LIMDIS

LUXEMBOURG FOR ASST SEC MOOSE

DAR ES SALAAM FOR GORDON BEYER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MASS, SO, US
SUBJ: SIAD'S SIGNALS: WANTED--A TIMELY SECURITY GESTURE FROM THE
USG

REF: STATE 175801

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT SIAD WAS ATTEMPTING TO CONVEY TO THE
WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR EXACTLY THE SAME MESSAGE THE SOMALI LEADER
AND HIS LIEUTENANTS HAVE BEEN CONVEYING TO US DURING THE CODEL
LEGGETT AND BEYER VISITS, AND VIA THE VICE MINISTER OF DEFENCE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOGADI 01591 150511Z

TO THE CHARGE. SIAD IS SAYING THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT. THE
DECISION TO BREAK WITH THE SOVIETS HAS BROUGHT DISAPPOINTING RESULTS
FROM THE WEST AND FURTHER CONCESSIONS ARE NOT POSSIBLE. HE IS
ALSO APPEARING FOR SOME CONCRETE SIGNS OF SUPPORT OTHER THAN
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

2. SIAD IS A CONSUMMATE ACTOR AS WELL AS A WILEY POLITICIAN.

WHETHER HE REALLY BELIEVES THAT WASHINGTON IS INTERESTED IN HIS REMOVAL FROM OFFICE OR RAISED THE CHARGE TO DRAMATIZE HIS PLIGHT IS MOOT. WE SUSPECT HE TOLD THE GERMAN IN THE FULL KNOWLEDGE THAT IT WOULD EVENTUALLY REACH US EARS. IN THE SAME CONTEXT, WE WERE SURPRISED TO HEAR HIM TELL CODEL LEGGETT ON THE 7TH THAT HE WAS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT EVENTS IN SOMALIA THAN OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY. HE HAS NEVER PERSONALIZED THE PERCEIVED THREAT TO HIS OWN POSITION SO BLUNTLY BEFORE. WE BELIEVE HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT HIS OFFICER CORPS, AND THE MEAGER ACHIEVEMENTS HE HAS ENJOYED TO DATE IN HIS ATTEMPT TO REBUILD THE SOMALI NATIONAL ARMY FOLLOWING ITS DEFEAT IN THE OGADEN. WE BELIEVE HE NEEDS AT LEAST SOME TANGIBLE EVIDENCE TO MOLLIFY HIS CRITICS. WE THINK THAT IS THE UNDERLYING RATIONALE FOR HIS PEREGRINATIONS ABOUT WESTERN EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST. WE BELIEVE IT ALSO EXPLAINS THE GSDR STEPS IN OPENING THE DOORS AT LEAST PARTIALLY TO ITS ZEALOUSLY GUARDED MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, AND TO INVITING US NAVAL SHIPS TO VISIT SOMALI PORTS.

3. THE EMBASSY CANNOT PRECISELY EVALUATE THE THREAT TO SIAD'S LEADERSHIP FROM DISSIDENT ELEMENTS WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE COUNTRY. VICE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OMAR HAJI EXPRESSED OBLIQUELY SOME CONCERN ABOUT THESE MATTERS IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE CHARGE ON JULY 12 (SEPTEL). SIAD MADE HIS CONCERNS EXPLICIT TO NEWLY ARRIVED SAUDI AMBASSADOR TAHA ALDEGHATHER IN THEIR INITIAL MEETINGS. WE BELIEVE THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER COUP ATTEMPT, BUT CANNOT SAY THAT IS A PROBABILITY. IF SIAD IS FORCED TO HUMILIATE HIMSELF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOGADI 01591 150511Z

IN THE EYES OF THE OFFICER CORPS BY RENEWED DECLARATIONS OF PACIFIC INTENT, OR TOLERATE NEW ETHIOPIAN AIR OR GROUND RETAILATORY ACTIONS AGAINST THE GSDR, WE BELIEVE STABILITY IN THE GSDR WILL SUFFER. THERE ARE OTHER STEPS SIAD COULD TAKE SUCH AS RESTORING A BETTER CLAN BALANCE IN THE GOVERNMENT AND PARTY, BUT HE MAY FEEL SUCH A MOVE NOW COULD BE INTERPRETED AS SIGN OF WEAKNESS, AND BE RELUCTANT TO DO SO UNTIL HE FEELS HIMSELF STRONGER.

4. IN THEORY ANY SUCCESSOR TO SIAD COULD MOVE TOWARD THE CENTER OR THE RIGHT. IN PRACTICE WE BELIEVE A SUCCESSOR WOULD BE A CABAL OF YOUNG OFFICERS WHO WOULD MOVE TOWARD THE RADICAL LEFT. MOREOVER, THEY WOULD BE UNSCHOOLED IN STATECRAFT, AND MORE NATIONALIST, WE SUSPECT, THAN THE PRESENT GSDR. WE CANNOT SEE MUCH GAIN FOR THE WEST IN THAT SITUATION. IN SHORT, WE THINK IT BETTER TO DEAL WITH SIAD, WARTS AND ALL, THAN TO IGNORE HIS PLEAS AND WAIT AND SEE HOW LONG OR IF HE CAN SURVIVE. THAT CONCLUSION WAS THE BASIS FOR OUR RECOMMENDATION THAT WE SCHEDULE AN IMMEDIATE NAVAL VISIT. WE THOUGHT THAT WAS A REASONABLY SMALL BUT POSITIVE STEP IN DEMONSTRATING TO SIAD AND HIS PEOPLE--MANY OF WHOM ARE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT TIES WITH THE US REGARDLESS OF THEIR FEELINGS ABOUT SIAD HIMSELF--THAT THE US DOES HAVE A CONCERN FOR THE SOMALI STATE AND ITS SECURITY.

VOUGHT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOGADI01591
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780290-0421
Format: TEL
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780759/aaaabxsu.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 80ee0773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 175801
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2004370
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIADY'S SIGNALS: WANTED--A TIMELY SECURITY GESTURE FROM THE USG
TAGS: PBOR, MASS, SO, US
To: STATE LUXEMBOURG
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/80ee0773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014